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FAYETTEVILLE ANIMAL CLINIC, P.C.

FAYETTEVILLE, TENNESSEE 37334
TELEPHONE (931) 433-1202

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Comment on Docket No. 2002N-0273 Proposed Rule To amend BSE Feed Ban

Our veterinary practice is located in a rural area of southern middle Tennessee. This area has a large agricultural livestock business. The county we are located in (Lincoln County) is number one in the state of Tennessee in terms of beef cattle numbers with approximately 70,000 head. Currently our dead animals are removed by a rendering company (Griffin Industries). The proposed rule to amend the BSE feed ban, if enacted, would effectively stop dead animal removal by the rendering company in our county as well as surrounding counties. It would be impossible to economically and practically remove the brain and spinal cord from all the dead cattle so the companies would stop picking them up.

The only practical alternative would be burial. Non compliance with proper burial, or no burial at all, would be a big problem. On numerous farms in our county soil is not deep enough to bury an animal correctly. Our county is located in a geographic area of rolling hills with numerous limestone rock outcroppings and caves with water running into the caves. There is no county wide public water system that serves everyone. A large percentage of our population still relies on wells and springs for their drinking water. Not having a rendering service pick up dead animals would lead to ground and surface water contamination, a danger to livestock and human health, and causing odor and aesthetic problems throughout the county. It would also result in increased cost to the farmers and loss of otherwise useable cattle by-products.

In addition, the current ruminant to ruminant feed ban prevents possible spread of BSE in cattle. Other animals that might consume cattle by-products are not in the human food chain and would not pose a risk to human health.

The USDA surveillance program has demonstrated that the United States does not have a problem with BSE. The miniscule risk of BSE does not warrant all the increased risk to human and environmental health that the above rule would create.

We would like to respectfully request that the above rule be withdrawn from consideration.

Sincerely,

Fayetteville Animal Clinic

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Mary Chorney, D.V.M.

Margaret Carter, D.V.M.

William H. Kidd, D.V.M.

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